

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraphs [indicated by paragraph number] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0032] For a 3dB splitter (or coupler), the Y-junction has a plane of essential symmetry orthogonal to the plane of the figure which defines in the same plane an axis 9 (as illustrated in Fig. 4) lying in a longitudinal direction. This direction essentially corresponds to the direction of propagation of the light radiation in the input guide 1. For other applications, the output waveguides 3, 4 can be made non-symmetrical with respect to the axis 9.

[0035] The structure of the junction is such that the optical signals have effective directions of propagation of the electromagnetic radiation defined essentially by the directions of extension of the waveguides 1, 3, 4. In particular, the output waveguides 3 and 4 form, at least in their initial position, an angle which is preferably less than 2° (in absolute terms) with the axis 9 (as illustrated in Fig. 4). This angle can be measured by taking the central axis of the waveguides 3 and 4 as the reference.